

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 06359 151015 Z

14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 AID-20 RSR-01

/097 W

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R 150847 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 182

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6359

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW OF ARVN 2 ND DIVISION COMMANDER WITH US

REPORTER NOVAK

FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION SAIGON FM DANANG AND RPTD FOR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 398

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: INTERVIEW OF ARVN 2 ND DIVISION COMMANDER WITH US

REPORTER NOVAK

1. THE FOLLOWING IS REPORTED BY POLOFF QUANG NGAI.

2. ARVN 2 ND DIVISION COMMANDER BG TRAN VAN NHUT ON APRIL 12 TOLD US REPORTERS ROBERT NOVAK THAT HE IS NOT SURPRISED THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE CEASEFIRE TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF ARMS AND MATERIALS IN PREPARATION FOR RENEWED ATTACKS IN THE SOUTH. WHILE HIS TROOPS HAVE BEEN ISSUED EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS TO LIMIT THEIR OPERATIONS AS WELL AS THEIR USE OF AMMUNITION, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE CONTINUED TO LAUNCH DAILY ATTACKS, ESPECIALLY AGAINST ARVN AND TERRITORIAL FORCES OUTPOSTS. THE ENEMY HAS COMMITTED MORE THAN 600 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS IN THIS AO ALONE. NHUT SAID HE WOULD DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO DEFEND THE AREAS ALREADY UNDER GVN CONTROL.

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THIS WOULD INCLUDE THE LAUNCHING OF PRE- EMPTIVE STRIKES AGAINST ANY ENEMY BUILD- UPS THAT DIRECTLY THREATENED HIS TROOPS OR THE GOVERN- MENT POPULACE. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ARVN TO ENGAGE IN ANY SIGNIFICANT OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS BECAUSE ARVN TROOPS HAVE BEEN SPREAD SO THINLY IN ORDER TO DEFEND THE POPULATED LOWLANDS. THE ENEMY, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS FREE TO CONCENTRATE HIS FORCES AT POINTS OF HIS CHOSING. THE VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE REPORTS NHUT HAS RECEIVED INDICATE THAT THE ENEMY IS PREPARING FOR A NEW OFFENSIVE IN MID- MAY, WITH SA HUYNH BEING THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE. NHUT ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE ENEMY WOULD HAVE THE PLEASURE OF CELEBRATING HO CHI MINH' S BIRTHDAY IN SA HUYNH.  
BROWN UNQUOTE  
BUNKER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SAIGON06359  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980121  
**Subject:** INTERVIEW OF ARVN 2 ND DIVISION COMMANDER WITH US REPORTER NOVAK  
**TAGS:** MILI, PINS, PINT  
**To:** EA  
JEC PARIS  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
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